

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A camming mechanism in combination with a pair of nesting, slidably relative sleeve members for maintaining a predetermined spacing between said pair of sleeve members, said sleeve members including a first sleeve having an outer longitudinally extending wall surface and a second sleeve member having an inner longitudinally extending wall surface laterally spaced from said outer wall surface, said camming mechanism comprising:

a longitudinally extending guide rail secured to one of said sleeve members, said guide rail having oppositely disposed, parallel camming guide surfaces; and

a pair of oppositely disposed spaced apart cam followers, each of said cam followers being in longitudinally guiding contact with a respective one of said parallel cam surfaces,

wherein said combination is capable of supporting at least 100 pounds.

2. (original) The camming mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said cam followers are rotatably secured to the other of said sleeve members.

3. (original) The camming mechanism according to claim 1 further comprising a second pair of cam followers having at least one of said second pair of cam followers in longitudinally guiding contact with said respective one of said parallel guide surfaces, said second pair of cam followers longitudinally spaced apart from said first pair of cam followers.

4. (original) The camming mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said guide rail is axially aligned with said one of said sleeve members.

5. (currently amended) A support column for an examination table for supporting a patient having an adjustable height, said column comprising:

at least two nesting sleeve sections, said sleeve sections being slidable relative to one another;

means for maintaining a predetermined spacing between an adjacent pair of said nesting sleeve sections, said means comprising:

at least one longitudinally extending guide rail secured to one of said adjacent sleeve sections, said guide rail having oppositely disposed parallel guiding cam surfaces;

at least one pair of oppositely disposed spaced apart cam followers being longitudinally in guiding contact with a respective one of said parallel cam surfaces, said cam followers supported by the other of said adjacent sleeve sections; and

means for sliding said sleeve sections relative to one another

wherein said column is capable of supporting said patient.

6. (original) The support column according to claim 5 wherein said each of said adjacent nesting sleeve sections includes surfaces, said surfaces facing surfaces of the other of said adjacent sleeve, said facing surfaces defining a polygonal spaced relationship, said facing surfaces supporting said spacing means.

7. (original) The column according to claim 6 wherein each of said nesting sleeves is rectangular in shape.

8. (original) The column according to claim 5 wherein said sliding means comprises a linear actuator.

9. (original) The column according to claim 5 further comprising a second pair of oppositely disposed spaced apart cam followers being in longitudinally guiding contact with a respective one of said parallel guide surfaces, said second pair of cam followers latitudinally spaced apart from said first pair of cam followers.

10. (currently amended) An adjustable examination table for supporting a patient comprising:

a support table;

a stationary base; and

an adjustable height column, said column comprising:

a plurality of sleeve sections, said sleeve sections slidably, nestingly connected to one another, one of said sleeve sections attached to said stationary base, another of said sleeve sections attached to said support table;

at least one longitudinally extending guide rail secured to one of said sleeve sections, said guide rail having oppositely disposed parallel guide surfaces;

at least one pair of oppositely disposed spaced apart cam followers being longitudinally in guiding contact with a respective one of said parallel guide surfaces; and

means for sliding said sleeve sections relative to one another,

wherein said examination table is capable of supporting said patient.

11. (original) The table according to claim 10 further comprising a second pair of oppositely disposed spaced apart cam followers being in longitudinally guiding contact with a respective one of said parallel guide surfaces, said second pair of cam followers latitudinally spaced apart from said first pair of cam followers, said second pair of cam followers providing support for a patient on said support table.

12. (original) The table according to claim 11 providing up to at least 450 pounds support for said patient in a cantilevered position.

13. (currently amended) The table according to claim 10 comprising at least a pair of longitudinally extending guide rails, wherein at least one of said ~~at least one~~ longitudinally extending guide rails is secured to one of each nesting pair of said sleeve sections, said cam followers are rotatably connected to other of said nesting pair of said sleeve sections.

14. (original) The table according to claim 10 wherein said sliding means comprises at least one linear actuator.

15. (original) The table according to claim 13 wherein said column further comprises a lower sleeve section, a middle sleeve section, and an upper sleeve section,

said lower sleeve section attached to said base,

said upper sleeve section attached to said support table, and

said middle sleeve section located between said lower sleeve section and said upper sleeve section, said middle sleeve section having an inner wall and an outer wall, at least one of said guide rails attached to said inner wall and at least one of said guide rails attached to said outer wall.

16. (original) The table according to claim 15 wherein the height is adjustable within a range of at least more than 19 inches.

17. (original) The table according to claim 16 wherein the height is adjustable within a range of at least about 23 inches.

18. (original) The table according to claim 16 wherein the height is adjustable to a maximum height of at least 39 inches and a minimum height of at least below 20 inches.